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SCHOOL  
AND  
FINANCIAL REPORTS  
OF  
BENNINGTON, N. H.,  
RENDERED  
MARCH 1st, 1870.



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1870.

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# SCHOOL REPORT.

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## DISTRICT NO. 1.

*Prudential Committee*, John D. Butler.

First Term—Teacher, MARY E. DUNCAN.

This teacher possesses many qualifications requisite for a successful instructor. A little more energy and enthusiasm on the part of the teacher, and more promptness on the part of the scholars, would have much improved the school. The examination at the close of the term did not show so much progress as might reasonably have been expected. One hundred and twenty instances of tardiness probably accounted for the failure at the examination.

Second and Third Terms—Teacher, IDA B. BUTLER.

This teacher has taught in town for a series of terms, and has been a faithful and industrious teacher, and in our visits to the fall and winter terms we found good order in the schoolroom, and good improvement made by the scholars who "had a mind to the work." Four scholars not absent or tardy during the fall term: Mary Butler, Gracie Wilson, Freddy Wilson and Perley Wilson. The winter term is still in session, although many of the scholars are absent on account of colds and scarlet fever.



## DISTRICT NO. 2.

*Prudential Committee*, C. Jewett Kimball.

First Term—Teacher, E. JENNIE CAMPBELL.

This term was Miss Campbell's second effort at school teaching, and we rarely find in so young a teacher so many good qualifications combined which make up a successful instructor. The most perfect harmony and good feeling existed during the term between teacher and scholars. The school passed a good examination and the general verdict of the committee and parents was, "well done." The following scholars are reported as not being absent or tardy during the term; Jennie M. Darrah, Josie S. Kimball, Augusta M. Shedd, Jennie M. Wood, Clarence F. Jenne and Fred H. Kimball.

Second Term—Teacher, JENNY M. NESMITH.

This district was fortunate in securing another good teacher for the winter term—one active, energetic, and whose excellence in teaching consists in awakening *thought* in the mind of the pupil. Industry and good order were prominent characteristics of the school during school hours. Much attention was paid to reading, and we have seldom witnessed so much improvement made in this branch of learning in one term. Good progress was also made in other branches, and the school term was a decided success. On the Roll of Honor we find the names of two as not absent or tardy during the term: Jennie M. Darrah and Freddie Gray.

## DISTRICT NO. 3.

*Prudential Committee*, Isaiah Sweetser.

Teacher, MARY G. COMSTOCK.

The summer and winter terms of this school were under the care of Miss COMSTOCK, an industrious and faithful teacher. The scholars appeared to attend school for the express purpose of learning, and well did they improve the opportunity. That greatest of all evils, *whispering*, had no place here. The teacher remarks in the register, that in the summer term Maria Sweetser did not misspell a word during the term, the spelling lesson averaging six lines per day.

## DISTRICT NO. 4.

*Prudential Committee*, Nahum Russell.

Summer and Winter Terms—Teacher, MAGGIE R. GREGG.

This school is united with No. 5 in Greenfield, and was under the care of the S. S. Committee of that town. Your committee visited the school at the close of the winter term. It certainly must be a severe test of the teacher's skill to keep a good school in such a defaced and shattered school house. But we should judge there was, to a good degree, a triumph over these difficulties. More parents and citizens visited the school the past year than usual. We hope the next committee will be able to report of this district, a better school house and a still better school. The names of Emma Swington, David Rogers, and John Swington were on the roll of honor in the summer term.

## DISTRICT NO. 5.

*Prudential Committee*, Henry Newton.

Teacher, THEODORE A. COLLINS.—One Term.

A backward school, but an experienced teacher, having taught school forty-four months. With a single term of only six weeks, it cannot be expected that much progress could be made. The scholars appeared to give their whole attention to study, and under the faithful efforts of the teacher made as good progress as could reasonably be expected. Two scholars not absent or tardy, Edward Newton and Samuel Newton. On the grand roll of honor, *reported as neither absent nor tardy during the year*, Jennie M. Darrah.

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REMARKS.

In making the report of the progress and condition of our schools the past year, your committee would remark that the teachers employed brought different degrees of experience and skill to the task, and of course produced different results. Our schools, on the whole, have generally had teachers of experience,—teachers that consider it a “delightful task to rear the tender thought,”—and the co-operation of parents, judging by the increased number visiting the school, is evidence that if we are not progressing as fast as we ought, we are, at the least, not retrograding.

A great responsibility rests upon the prudential



committee, in selecting teachers adapted to the school. One teacher is not adapted to all schools. Look to the need of *your school*, and try to supply that need, regarding friends or wages as of minor importance. One proposing to teach comes before the S. S. Committee for a certificate. If their literary qualifications are sufficient, he must of course give them a certificate, when at the same time he has strong doubts of their qualifications for the responsible position they have attained. Never seek to lengthen out a school by hiring *cheap* teachers ; and when you have secured a good teacher for one term, try them again and again. Some of the prudential committee the past year have been remiss in their duty, in not visiting the schools. Not one would employ a person to labor for *them* eight or ten weeks without going and inspecting their work. How much more important, then, to examine the work of those intrusted with the training of immortal minds, especially when you have taken a solemn oath to perform your *duty* according to the best of your ability.

To the teachers we would say, always keep in mind the object of school teaching. It is not altogether in cramming the mind with the rules of grammar, the facts of geography, or the calculations of arithmetic ; but it is also your duty, according to the wise statute of our fathers, to diligently impress upon the mind of your scholars, "the principles of piety and justice, a sacred regard to truth, love of country, humanity and benevolence, sobriety, industry and frugality, chastity, moderation and temperance, and all the virtues which are the ornament and

support of human society; and to endeavor to lead them into a particular understanding of the tendency of all such virtues to preserve and perfect a republican form of government, to secure the blessings of liberty, and to promote their future happiness."

Permit me to call your attention again to those dilapidated structures, miscalled school houses, in Districts No. 1 and 2. A stranger passing by them would naturally suppose that the children confined here six hours in a day were receiving punishment for some crime. But let him enter one, and sit one day when the thermometer is at *zero*, and he would conclude that they were the very nurseries of fevers and consumptions. How many hours have been wasted by the scholars in efforts to keep warm; and when the house is fairly "warmed up," there comes over the children a dull and lifeless feeling, resulting in headache, colds, and various diseases, which result in a dire harvest in the future.

Parents, citizens, voters, this ought not so to be. The taxable property of your districts, excluding polls, amounts to one hundred and forty-nine thousand and four hundred and forty-six dollars (\$149,446). If with this amount of taxable property, the districts cannot afford better places for their children's comfort, they had better "*break up housekeeping and board out.*" A small per cent. of this amount would prepare and furnish a school room that would be a comfort to your children, and which would richly repay you for your labor and expense.

Your committee deemed it best at the commencement of the summer schools to make a change in the



reading books, substituting Hillard's for the Progressive Series. Our thanks are due to the parents for the promptness with which they furnished their children with the new series. The introduction, at the commencement of the winter term, of "Shaw's Writing and Composition Spelling Book," has been attended with the happiest results. I think it advisable that this exercise be continued.

Respectfully submitted.

JOHN H. FLEMING,  
*Superintending School Committee.*



# AUDITORS' REPORT.

For the Year ending Feb. 25, 1870.

The Treasurer and Selectmen are charged by the Auditors with the following sums :

To amount of tax list committed to Alfred Gray for collection,	\$3783 28
Balance due the town as per last year's report,	63 29
Uncollected taxes on Duncklee's list, 1864,	47 72
"          "          Gray's list 1866,	32 45
"          "          "          " 1867,	196 20
"          "          "          " 1868,	352 60
Money borrowed of Wm. L. Taylor,	100 00
Of C. S. A. Hodgkins,	75 00
George P. Griswold,	100 00
John D. Butler,	200 00
Harvey Stacy,	600 00
George P. Griswold,	50 00
Betsey R. Brown,	15 00
H. H. Duncklee,	600 00
Persis Wilson,	140 00
Eliza Wilson,	200 00
John D. Butler,	300 00
S. A. Starrett,	250 00
Susan Pitcher,	100 00
John D. Butler,	200 00
C. J. Kimball,	150 00
Hartwell Lakin.	85 00
Mary E. Dodge,	300 00
Betsey Burt,	175 00
Abram Burt,	100 00
Savings Bank tax,	191 69
Railroad tax.	49 10
Literary fund,	20 80
Error in last year's report,	53 29
Money borrowed of John D. Butler,	100 00
Adolphus Burt's highway tax,	2 00
Bridge plank sold,	50
Borrowed of Rachel Wilson,	36 10
	<hr/> \$8669 02



The Auditors credit the Treasurer with paying the following sums :

By paying State tax,	\$930 00	
“ “ County tax,	260 73	
Non-resident highway receipts,	102 65	
	<hr/>	\$1293 38

*School Orders.*

District No. 1, John D. Butler,	\$214 07	
“ “ 2, C. J. Kimball,	245 75	
“ “ 3, Isaiah Sweetser,	75 75	
“ “ 4, Nahum Russell,	37 47	
“ “ 5, Henry Newton,	26 45	
	<hr/>	\$599 49

*Breaking Roads in Winter.*

Henry and Moses Newton,	\$12 95	
Wm. L. Taylor,	2 50	
“ “ “ snowing bridge,	4 00	
“ “ “ breaking roads,	1 45	
A. N. Jenne,	2 27	
George Dresser,	4 05	
Wm. Roach,	3 97	
Horace Rogers,	10 95	
Emerson Favor,	4 35	
Moses H. Newton,	1 50	
James Quimby,	5 15	
B. F. Martin,	6 22	
	<hr/>	\$59 36

*Expense of Town Paupers.*

By paying Amos Eaton for boarding Nath'l Eaton in the year 1868,	\$78 00	
In the year 1869, and to March 1st, 1870,	86 43	
James Quimby, boarding Nath'l Eaton,	44 00	
Lydia Brown, boarding Willie George,	6 50	
M. M. George, boarding Mrs. Wilson,	104 00	
Dr. Christie, medicine for Mrs. Wilson,	3 00	
Jacob Brown, boarding Willie George,	9 00	
	<hr/>	\$330 93

*Transient and County Paupers.*

H. B. Wheeler, keeping transient pauper,	\$1 00	
Wesley Wilson, paid transient pauper,	2 50	
John Flagg, for Mrs. Griswold,	4 87	
G. H. Stewart, keeping transient pauper,	1 00	
	<hr/>	\$9 37

*Money paid for Repairing Roads and Bridges, in addition to Highway Tax, and for Laying out and Land Damages of the New Road.*

William L. Taylor, labor,	\$ 2 07
H. B. Wheeler, bridge plank,	11 70

G. W. Burns, powder and fuse,	2 75	
G. M. Pond, labor,	4 00	
G. P. Griswold, labor,	4 00	
James Foote, labor,	5 34	
Benjamin Burt, labor,	10 00	
William L. Taylor, bridge plank, &c.,	33 15	
James F. Briggs, expense of laying out new road,	106 77	
Abram Burt, land damages,	20 00	
Sally B. Whittemore, land damages,	30 00	
John Blanchard, land damages,	25 00	
H. H. Duncklee,	30 00	
G. W. Ross, labor,	14 00	
J. W. Flagg, labor,	3 00	
Horace Rogers, labor,	7 80	
David Rogers, labor,	11 38	
John D. Butler, labor,	4 00	
J. M. Quimby, labor,	7 87	
Kendall Gray, labor,	8 57	
C. P. Whittemore,	10 50	
J. C. Dodge,	26 00	
G. W. Burns, part payment building new road,	70 00	
Wesley Wilson,	20 20	
W. S. Carlin,	27 71	
		<hr/>
		\$495 81

*Miscellaneous Town Expenses.*

Wm. L. Taylor, work on road,	\$2 10	
Morrill & Silsby, stationery,	75	
A. & G. A. Whittemore, plow,	7 00	
John Flagg, taking care engine, 1868,	25 00	
Ira A. Eastman, advice,	10 00	
B. W. Sanborn, books and stationery,	5 30	
Farnum & Scott, printing reports,	17 50	
Isaac Proctor, guide board,	4 00	
W. Wilson, express on money,	50	
John Flagg, paying engine men at fire,	21 06	
“ “ taking care of engine,	25 00	
M. M. George, ringing bell,	8 00	
C. R. Morrison, advice,	6 00	
J. C. Dodge, sheep killed by dogs,	5 00	
Wm. Roach, “ “ “ “	3 00	
G. H. Stewart, use of rooms,	400	
Dr. M. Christie, damage to sleigh,	5 00	
		<hr/>
		\$149 21

*Money Paid Town Officers.*

Wesley Wilson, 1st Selectman,	\$55 00	
J. C. Dodge, 2nd “	30 00	
W. H. Darrah, 3rd “	30 00	
Chas. F. Peavey, Town Clerk,	15 00	
Hartwell Lakin, Town Treasurer,	30 00	
Alfred Gray, Collector,	35 00	
John H. Fleming, Superintending School Committee,	12 00	
“ “ “ Auditor,	6 00	
Abram Burt, “	3 00	
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		\$216 00

*Abatement of Taxes on Gray's List of 1867.*

Adams F. Dickey, poll,	\$4 80	
Daniel D. Cator,	4 80	
Daniel Brown,	4 80	
Nathaniel E. Dickey,	6 24	
Henry J. Burt,	4 01	
Sylvester Wilson, poll,	4 80	
Luther Newton, on cow,	40	
	<hr/>	\$29 85

*On Gray's List of 1868.*

Sylvester Wilson, poll,	\$2 63	
James Gould, poll and dog,	3 63	
Benjamin Bullard,	3 79	
James Burton, poll,	2 63	
Lucinda S. Dodge, oxen paid in Antrim,	2 48	
	<hr/>	\$15 16

*On Gray's List of 1869.*

Wm. Munhall, poll paid in Greenfield,	\$2 55	
A. W. Stevens, poll,	2 55	
Thomas Donohoe, poll,	2 55	
Sylvester Hutchinson, paid in Wilton,	2 55	
Leonard Barton, poll,	2 55	
Daniel D. Cator,	2 55	
Frank G. Dodge,	2 55	
Sylvester Wilson,	2 55	
Henry Jaques,	2 55	
George W. Green,	2 55	
Adams F. Dickey,	2 55	
Wm. Roach, poll tax, above 70 years,	2 55	
Moses H. Newton, exemption on inventory,	8 50	
Widow Joel Brown, on land,	85	
	<hr/>	\$39 95
Abatements on three lists,		<hr/> \$84 96

Since the above Abatements, there has been abated and paid in money on the tax list of 1867,	\$96 95	
On the tax list of 1868,	77 49	
	<hr/>	\$174 44

*Notes and Interest Paid.*

	Notes.	Interest.
Wesley Wilson,	\$100 00	17
" "		10
Emerson Favor,		3 00
Sarah M. Taylor,		35 27
Mary D. Bass,	200 00	14 75
Dr. M. Christie,		5 65
Samuel Baldwin,	500 00	15 80
Betsey R. Brown,	80 34	76
Persis Wilson,		5 91



Joel Bullard,		35 32
Amos Whittemore, T. M. Bell note,	200 00	38 01
Abram Burt,	40 57	12 57
Persis Wilson,		2 29
Wm. L. Taylor.		38 91
Betsey R. Brown,	24 00	
Peterborough Bank,	800 00	27 50
Nancy Forsaith,		31 50
G. P. Griswold,	50 00	73
A. Whittemore, Congregational Society note,		18
Wesley Wilson,	47 26	1 20
A. A. Ramsey, E. R. Hall note,	100 00	7 38
Lewis A. Knight,		100 20
R. P. Whittemore, Dodge note,	619 32	167 07
Hartwell Lakin,	85 00	07
H. H. Duncklee,	600 00	16 80
Francis Burnham,		36 85
Lewis A. Knight,	170 00	
R. P. Whittemore, error on interest,		1 00
C. J. Kimball,	150 00	1 42
Abram Burt,		67
Harvey Stacy,	600 00	29 31
I. W. Sweetser,		23 82
Alfred Gray, E. Favor note,	50 00	2 50
Principal,	\$4416 49	\$696 50
Interest,	696 50	
	<hr/>	
	\$5112 99	

## DR.

The selectmen and treasurer to the town,	\$8669 02
Interest on taxes,	8 00
Selectmen, by paying bills,	25 58—\$8702 60

## CR.

Paying State, county and non-resident highway tax,	\$1293 38
School orders,	599 49
Breaking roads,	59 36
Support of town paupers,	330 93
Transient and county paupers,	9 37
Abatement of taxes,	110 76
Money paid town officers,	216 00
Miscellaneous town expenses,	149 21
Paid for repairing roads and bridges,	495 81
Notes and interest paid,	5112 99
Abatement of taxes,	110 76
Balance in Treasury,	115 79
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	\$8702 60

*Town Liabilities.*

## Principal and Interest.

Joel Bullard, note,	\$382 29
Dr. Morris Christie,	296 49
Harriet Smiley,	402 75
Tamer Bailey,	58 70

Lydia Pollard,	135 04
Wm. L. Taylor,	747 95
Mrs. Bixby, note dated April 21, 1865,	199 84
Eliza Wilson, " " " 27, "	200 72
Edward Adams, " " Dec. 5, "	384 10
B. F. Knight, Sept. 11, 1866,	1543 70
John D. Butler, March 22, 1867,	742 52
James Hadley, 2 notes, April 6 and 12, 1867,	532 58
William Eaton, Nov. 11, 1867,	400 33
Caroline E. Bell, July 27, 1867,	232 58
Lydia Pollard, April 11, 1868,	446 64
Nancy Forsaith, May 13, "	546 05
Joel Bullard, " " "	111 03
Lydia Pollard, " 4, "	329 54
John W. Flagg, Oct. 24, "	216 24
David Rogers, Nov. 4, "	161 38
Isaac Proctor, " 16, "	53 62
Wm. Eaton, " 28, "	268 97
I. W. Sweetser, Dec. 30, "	317 10
Francis Burnham, Nov. 3, "	633 52
Mrs. S. Abbott, Jan. 8, 1869,	53 43
John D. Butler, " 9, "	504 16
G. A. Whittemore, Feb. 6, "	372 53
Alfred Gray, " 22, "	35 51
Wm. L. Taylor, March 4, "	106 00
C. S. A. Hodgkins, " 18, "	79 40
Geo. P. Griswold, " 31, "	105 50
Persis Wilson, May 25, "	210 00
Eliza Wilson, June 12, "	208 00
Sarah A. Starrett, " 26, "	255 00
Susan Pitcher, Aug. 12, "	103 50
S. Willard Eaton, " 24, "	69 71
Abram Burtt, " 30, "	206 00
Mary E. Dodge, Oct. 6, "	307 50
Betsey Burtt, " 30, "	179 37
Abram Burtt, Nov. 14, "	102 00
John D. Butler, Feb. 19, 1870,	846 42
" " " " " "	100 00
Rachel Wilson, " " "	100 00
Congregational Society, Feb. 6, 1867,	200 00
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Amount of town liabilities,	\$13487 71
Taxes uncollected on Duncklee's list, 1864,	47 72
" " " Gray's list, 1866,	32 45
" " " " 1867,	69 40
" " " " 1868,	159 95
Balance in treasury,	115 79
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	325 31
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Total indebtedness of the town,	\$13162 40

We have examined the above report and find it accurately cast and properly vouched.

Respectfully submitted.

JOHN H. FLEMING, }  
ABRAM BURTT, } Auditors.